

# Global Gateway

## A Euro-centric global policy



Less aid,  
more debt



Profits for  
EU companies



European geopolitical  
and economic interests



Lack of  
transparency



Few benefits for  
the Global South

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“... making sure that our external action reinforces our internal goals.”

Commissioner for international partnerships, Jozef Síkela, October 2025 on Global Gateway

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### What is the Global Gateway?

- It is a program of both infrastructure projects and political “partnerships” in the Global South.
- The EU provides less aid and more debt.
- The EIB and other public banks in the EU provide loans with guarantees from the EU budget for infrastructure projects — mostly in the energy, mining, transport and digital sectors — in order to secure access to energy, raw materials and data for EU big business.

### The narrative

Development, trade and geopolitical objectives can match — delivering a “win-win partnership”.

### The reality

In the Global South, the fight against poverty, inequalities and climate change is sidelined, while the promotion of European geopolitical and economic interests becomes the number one priority.

## What is new with Global Gateway?



### A shift away from development priorities

- It uses aid money but not to reduce poverty or inequality.
- Projects are not financed by grants but by public loans with favourable conditions for European companies (through derisking, guarantees, etc.), mainly through the European Investment Bank.
- Traditional development projects such as building schools or hospitals, paying doctors or teachers' salaries, small-scale agricultural support or social protection are becoming rare.

### European geopolitical and economic interests

- It is made mostly for European companies and interests.
- Projects happen mostly in countries which have a geopolitical interest for the EU, where it seeks to compete for economic and political influence with China and, at times, the United States.



### No voices from the Global South

- Projects are not designed by local people. They are large infrastructure investments drawn up by European capitals and big businesses through an investment hub where EU companies have privileged access to submit proposals.
- Projects are not designed and implemented with impacted communities according to their needs.
- Projects fail to demonstrate concrete benefits to local communities.



### Lack of transparency

- Little information is known before the project is approved.
- The selection of projects happens in a very opaque manner, between companies, member states and EU institutions, leaving no room for meaningful political debate by EU elected officials or impacted communities. Partner countries agree with projects, but have a limited role in the design of the strategy and priorities.



## What is new with Global Gateway?

- Nearly half of the projects take place in Africa, with the rest mainly concentrated in Latin America and Asia.
- There is no specific priority for lower-income countries in the world.
- Around half of the projects are large-scale energy projects, including:
  - Large dams;
  - Hydrogen and potentially gas pipelines;
  - Mining, refinery and transport infrastructure to export Critical Raw Materials to the EU.

## What are the most controversial projects?

### Lobito corridor



- Railway connection between the mines of DR Congo and the Lobito port in Angola.
- It is being renovated not to build long-term, community-driven development, but to facilitate faster and cheaper access to raw materials for Europe's green, digital and military agendas.
- Promises of local economic benefits, decent jobs, and regional value chains remain vague.

### Hydrogen Projects

- Producing hydrogen requires a lot of water, land and energy.
- Local communities face displacement, land grabbing, over-extraction of water and the diversion of renewable energy that could support local development.
- Natural resources are extracted from the Global South to power the Global North, while local rights, needs and futures remain sidelined.
- EU public investment in long-distance hydrogen infrastructure supports a neocolonial, export-oriented model that benefits EU fossil fuel corporations, allowing them to expand their business.

### Examples of countries affected by H2 projects



Brazil



Chile



Argentina



Kazakhstan



Trinidad and Tobago



Namibia



South Africa



Morocco



Barbados



Neocolonial and extractivist model



No decent local jobs or real development



No Just Transition for the Global South

**Counter**

**Balance**

Challenging Public Investment Banks